No proposal for promotion of tourism at Konkan coastal region has either been prioritized or forwarded by the State Government for grant of Central Financial Assistance during 2008-09. However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for development of tourism in Konkan region during the Tenth Plan period:

(1) Integrated development of Western Circuit (Konkan Riviera circuit) for Rs. 502.51 lakh in the year 2002-03.

(2) Integrated development of Konkan Riviera Circuit Part II for Rs. 685.87 lakh in the year 2004-05.

(3) Konkan Riviera circuit Part III comprising Ganapatipule-Valneswar-Sindhudurg-Tarkali for Rs. 594.17 lakh in the year 2005-06.

(4) Destination development of Kunkeshwar for Rs. 314.04 lakh in the year 2006-07.

Tourism potential in Rajasthan

437. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Rajasthan has a vast potential in tourism sector;

(b) whether Government plans to identify new tourism places in Rajasthan and develop them;

(c) if so, which are the new places identified by Government there;

(d) what is the financial support extended by Government; and

(e) what is the target set for tourists both domestic and foreign to visit Rajasthan in the forthcoming year as compared to previous three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects, which are identified in consultation with them. In the current financial year, projects of Udaipur, Bala Qila and Kankwari Fort were sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism.

(d) Central Financial Assistance is extended for the following schemes:-

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

(ii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(iii) Computerization and Information Technology.

(iv) Fairs, Festivals and Events.

(v) Rural Tourism-Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers.

Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved as per guidelines on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability of fund.

(e) No targets are set for tourists (domestic and foreign) to visit Rajasthan. Tourist arrivals to the State in the last four years are as under:-

Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
2005	1,87,87,298	11,31,164	199,18,462
2006	2,34,83,287	12,20,164	247,03,451
2007	2,59,20,529	14,01,042	273,21,571
2008 (up to June 08)	1,11,15,171	7,98,368	119,13,539

Archaeological exploration in Sri Lanka

†438. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the news "Rawan Ke Ghar Ram" released by Tourism Department of the Sri Lanka Government and telecasted by India TV on 17 January, 2008;

(b) whether Tourism Department of Sri Lanka has issued any information leaflet, C.D., etc. in respect of the above;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government of India together with Sri Lanka Government would conduct archaeological exploration/ investigations in respect of characters/ tourist sites related to the story of Sri Ram?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) During the South Asia Tourism and Travel Exchange held in Delhi from April 18-20, 2008, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Board had distributed compact discs and brochures promoting destinations related to Ramayana trail in Sri Lanka.

(d) No Such proposal is under consideration.

Pending tourism projects in Rajasthan

†439. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of several projects pending with Government for sanction relating to the development and promotion of tourism in Rajasthan, project-wise;

(b) the necessary action taken by Government so far for sanctioning these proposals; and

(c) by when several tourist related projects of the State will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance to project proposals

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.